

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 6, 8 and 10. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the transfer of a fluid substance, and/or a substance comprised in a fluid substance, from a first cavity to a second cavity, comprising the steps of:

a) introducing into the first cavity a fluid substance whose transfer is to be controlled, and/or a substance whose transfer is to be controlled comprised in the fluid substance, and holding the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance in the first cavity, wherein the first cavity is connected to the second cavity by an intervening intermediate cavity, and the intervening intermediate cavity is provided with a separation medium which prevents transfer of the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance into the intervening intermediate cavity;

b) replacing the separation medium in the intervening intermediate cavity with a connection medium that allows transfer of the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance into the intervening intermediate cavity; and

c) transferring the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance from the first cavity to the second cavity via the intervening intermediate cavity.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the following steps (1) to (3) is also carried out in the first and/or second cavity:

(1) separating the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance;

(2) reacting the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance;
and

(3) detecting the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the separation is carried out by electrophoresis.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first cavity, the second cavity, and the intervening intermediate cavity comprise a groove or tube configuration; the fluid substance is a liquid; the separation medium is a gas; and the connection medium is a liquid.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the second cavity comprises the form of at least one groove or tube that branches from the first cavity.
6. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling the transfer of a fluid substance and/or a substance comprised in a fluid substance, comprising:
 - a) a first cavity for holding the fluid substance;
 - b) a second cavity for holding the fluid substance; and
 - c) an intervening intermediate cavity for connecting the first cavity and the second cavity, for holding a separation medium which prevents transfer of the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance from the first cavity;wherein the separation medium can be replaced with a connection medium, and the introduction of the connection medium to the intervening intermediate cavity enables transfer of the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance retained in the first cavity, to the intervening intermediate cavity and the second cavity.
7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein the first cavity and/or the second cavity comprises at least one of the following mechanisms (1) to (3):
 - (1) a mechanism for separating the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance;
 - (2) a mechanism for reacting the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance; and
 - (3) a mechanism for detecting the fluid substance and/or the substance comprised in the fluid substance.

8. (Currently Amended) A two-dimensional electrophoretic device comprising;
 - a) a first cavity for holding an electrophoretic medium;
 - b) a second cavity for holding an electrophoretic medium; and
 - c) an intervening intermediate cavity for connecting the first cavity and the second cavity, for holding a separation medium which prevents transfer of the substance to be electrophoresed from the first electrophoretic medium to the second electrophoretic medium; wherein the separation medium can be replaced with a connection medium, and the introduction of the connection medium into the intervening intermediate cavity enables transfer of the substance to be electrophoresed in the electrophoretic medium retained in the first cavity, to the intervening intermediate cavity and the second cavity.
9. (Original) The two-dimensional electrophoretic device of claim 8, wherein the second cavity comprises the form of at least one groove or tube that branches from the first cavity.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting two-dimensional electrophoresis, comprising the steps of:
 - a) conducting electrophoresis in the first cavity of the electrophoretic device of claim 8;
 - b) introducing a connection medium to an intervening intermediate cavity after step a); and
 - c) conducting electrophoresis of a substance to be electrophoresed in a second cavity.